

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
22710 EAST COUNTRY VISTA DRIVE  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**INVOCATION**

Given by Council Member Crump

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor, City Council and Staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Van Orman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Van Orman  
Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs (absent)  
Council Member Jenkins (absent)  
Council Member Owens  
Council Member Crump  
Council Member Olander  
Council Member Schuler

Doug Smith, Director, Community Dev  
Cindy Smith, City Clerk  
Brian Asmus, Chief of Police  
Sean Boutz, City Attorney

Council Member Crump moved to excuse Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs and Council Member Jenkins, seconded by Council Member Owens. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Council Member Crump moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Council Member Langford. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council Member Owens moved to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2008 as amended, seconded by Council Member Crump. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Approved. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Margaret Barnes, 22915 E. Valleyway, Liberty Lake, and Valerie Marshall, co-chairs of the "Yes for a Community Center/ Library", urged the Council to pass Ordinance No. 167. Ms.

Barnes stated, "The community center and library will become the centerpiece of a much needed gathering place for citizens, of all ages, of this community. The community is growing rapidly, and by the City's projections will increase in the next 20 years, thus providing the City of Liberty Lake much added and needed revenues. The library is currently at capacity and future services and programs will become non-existent without additional space. We request that the City Council set aside any personal feelings and focus on the benefits that will be derived to the citizens of Liberty Lake. It would be a grave injustice for this community."

Jennifer Ophardt, 24115 E. Maxwell Avenue, Liberty Lake, spoke on the need for a theatre in Liberty Lake. She said it would be a great place to have a community theatre. She invited everyone to a meeting at the Trailhead Golf Course on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Dan Dunne, 501 N. Homestead, Liberty Lake, asked for more information on the Middle School project construction.

Jennifer Tomlinson, 522 N Homestead Drive, Liberty Lake, said she would like to hear the responses of the progress and updates at the Liberty Lake Elementary School.

## **PRESENTATION**

Mayor Van Orman presented a Certificate of Recognition and a snow shovel to Jeff Fox for going the extra mile to clear snow from his elderly neighbor's driveway. Mayor Van Orman said not only did he do his neighbors but did their neighbor's as well. Mr. Fox thanked the Council but said he felt awkward for taking the recognition because if anybody else would be in his shoes they would have done the same thing.

Mayor Van Orman asked that any elderly or disabled citizen who have a berm inside their driveway, call City Hall, and we will get it taken care of.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council Member Crump reported that the Finance Committee had met and reviewed the vouchers. He also met with Governor Gregoire while she was in Spokane and gave a report not only for Liberty Lake but on other surrounding areas. Governor Gregoire had established and declared an Emergency Declaration which did not provide additional funding but enabled her to use all the powers within the State to be able to help out different jurisdictions. Other items discussed were: 1) health concerns in emergency medical response because of the extra strain and cost on human life; and 2) concern with melt off and serious flooding on a county-wide basis. Council Member Crump stated he had also attended the open house for Needful Things.

Mayor Van Orman reported on the Grand Openings of Great Harvest Bread, The Lake Shack, and TierPoint.

Council Member Olander reported the Community Development Committee was given the responsibility of coming up with a recommendation for a sports complex and looking at the TIF Projects. He advised that the committee is collecting and reviewing data, and will bring the information back as a Workshop Discussion on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Owens reported that Council Member Schuler, Council Member Langford, Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs, Mayor Van Orman, Doug Smith, and Jessica Platt had attended the Association of Washington City Legislative Action Committee in Olympia.

They spent time lobbying for issues that are important not only to Liberty Lake but to other municipalities as well, and trying to bring our issues to the forefront for our legislators for their consideration in bills that will be coming up. Council Member Owens said the Agenda was available to anyone who might be interested in following the progression on the Bills.

## **STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS**

### Fire District

Assistant Chief Larry Rider gave an update on the Fire Department's activities. Items discussed were: increased medical calls by 10 %, watching for water runoff, and hiring of 4 new individuals in January. He stated the bids for Fire District Station 9 construction and relocation will go out in two weeks, and announced there will be a public meeting at University High School on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for any discussions or questions on the relocation.

### Sewer and Water District

Steve Skipworth gave a brief report on the Sewer District. Items discussed were:

- Sewer District is looking forward to the cooperation with the City of Liberty Lake
- 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Lakes Conference at Community College on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Negotiating with Bello Lago on installation of a new water reservoir
- Received a request from Greenstone to extend the Sewer District north of the river into the corporate boundary

Mr. Skipworth said the key thing that is going to happen this year is water conservation. He explained that the Sewer District is hoping that the City of Liberty Lake can partner with the Sewer District for encouraging citizens to use water efficiently. Other items discussed were: the Sewer District is working on a program with DOE on Water Rights; the effluent coming out of the new plant sufficient although the District saw the need for requesting more funding because of tighter Department of Ecology requirements; and the District is looking at Memorandum of Understanding with Spokane Valley, Millwood, Spokane County, and the City of Liberty Lake on wellhead protection.

### Youth Commission

Jenna Peterson gave a brief update on the Youth Commission. She said the Youth Commission has focused on community service – a tour of Second Harvest Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Youth Leadership Night on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the ValleyHub, and the All Fools Hunt at Trailhead Golf Course on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Municipal Library

Pamela Mogen, Director of Library Services, gave a synopsis of the activities at the Municipal Library. Items discussed were:

- Library Statistics
- Events
  - "Teen Tech Night" in March
  - "Every Child Ready to Read" Grant (2 scheduled for February)
  - HeritageQuest Workshop
  - Joint Library Board and Friends Meeting
  - "Yes for Our Community Center/Library" Committee
  - Friends of the Municipal Library met and donated \$5,000 to the bond
  - One Book Grant

- Website being developed by students at EVHS
- Kickoff on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Demo by Mountain's West Search and Rescue Team
- Library Newsletter published in February
- Tracy Rebstock working with Tutor.com

Discussions continued on when the library expected the growth to stop and if discussions were held on whether the Library Committee should be open to only City residents. Council Member Owens felt the "Yes Campaign" should not necessarily be limited to City residents because it is a much wider community that we are going serve – it is not just the library but also the community center.

### S.C.O.P.E

Tom Lundstrom reported on the S.C.O.P.E. activities for the past quarter. Items discussed were: number of patrols is consistent with last year, hours up to 600, each year the Community Service list is growing and S.C.O.P.E tries to fill that need; and the Property Crime Statistics.

Council Member Owens asked about the number of members that make up the S.C.O.P.E. hours over the last year and the number of members that live and outside the City. Tom Lundstrom said we had a low of 16 active members and a high of 24 in November and December. He added  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the volunteers live within the City, the average age is 65, and the hourly time is split 50% – 50%. Council Member Owens gave the City Council's thanks to those volunteers. He responded to Council Member Crump's previous request for an hourly rate - \$17/hr (sheriff's office) which averages 210 hours per year. Council Member Crump stated this is a family-friendly community and that's what people like. Council Member Crump added he has watched the children interact with S.C.O.P.E. and they are user-friendly, and approachable, and has seen a lot less resistance to law enforcement authority. Council Member Schuler stated that by S.C.O.P.E. driving through the neighborhoods and just not down the main streets has also made a huge difference.

### Public Safety

Chief Asmus gave an update on the police department activities for the past month. Chief Asmus thanked S.C.O.P.E. for fingerprinting, crime prevention issues, neighborhood watches, and Operation Family Identification. He also thanked City staff (Mary, Amanda) for taking care of the signage issue for water over the roadways. He also spoke about:

- Peplinski Construction has uncovered drainage pipes – snow drifts/slick roads
- Three stolen cars because of leaving cars running during cold weather.

Discussion continued regarding seven (7) driving while licenses suspended citations, nine (9) liability insurance citations, and fifteen (15) alcohol and drug incidences for which people were cited and arrested. Council Member Langford thanked Officer Lance for her work on the drug arrest at real estate Open Houses.

### City Staff

Doug Smith gave a brief report on City staff. Additional items discussed were:

- Snow removal budget for 2007 blown by \$32,000
- Continue to work with Spokane County on the 5 -10 year reviews of UGA
- Meeting with Jerry Lindsey and Keith Metcalf of WSDOT regarding Regional Transportation Issues
- Received the MOU from Sewer District
  - City taking position of adopting its own standard of 1000 feet

- Met with Brad Welland regarding ball fields at grade school and middle school.
  - Concern for the School District was the minimizing of open-space
    - Elementary School - fencing may diminish the function of the school site.
    - Middle School improvements were diminished because of not being able to secure the site for the City.
    - City waiting to see where City Council stands - \$150,000 is not going to buy anything other than irrigation and leveling the field.

After discussions on safety standards, CVSD is allowing dirt to be brought in to level the ground and baselines for mounds, Council Member Owens emphasized "It seems reasonable to me that children are already playing on fields that do not have that additional hardscape. That striking a somewhat collaborative balance by using the fields that we have here at Liberty Lake, and improving them without the additional hardscape, is a solution. It may not be the best solution but since the kids are playing on fields without that additional fencing right now, then it can't be any worse for them to play without fencing here close to home."

After a discussion on the proposal of the extension of existing baseline fencing, Jennifer Tomlinson reiterated, "It is very basic – Safety 101. Otherwise, we could play in my backyard because it is big enough." Mayor Van Orman suggested taking the issue back to the Community Development Committee. Council Member Schuler stated her position was to keep in at least something in the forefront that we are working on in partnership with the elementary school and another solution for more fields. Council Member Owens said she felt the City didn't need to put it to rest, but for this year we would not be able to provide a new park for the kids. "I think we need to look at something for this year because if you start in the spring you are not going to have a field for kids to play on, I don't care what field you start on – it is not going to be a playful field this year. I think we need to be a little more collaborative and make these fields presentable and workable. The kids are in a situation very similar outside of our community and I think that it is important that we give them an equal opportunity right now in our community."

Other issues discussed were the scheduling of snow removal, the Central Valley School District is putting a new Draft Capital Facility Plan together and once the School District's Plan is complete, the City will be moving forward with the commitment to put in place impact fees, and for the City to focus on buying its own land for baseball fields.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### Consent Agenda

Council Member Crump moved to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$321,299.70, the Wiley E. Waters Agreement, and the Professional Agreement with Rocky Hill Park, seconded by Council Member Owens. Mayor Van Orman called for vote. Motion Passed. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

Check sequences were: 9097 through 9182  
Payroll check sequences were: 4343 through 4399

Council Member Crump moved Consent Agenda Item 3 "Acceptance of MOU – Spokane Valley Hub", seconded by Council Member Owens.

After discussions as to why the City Council is taking the position of supporting the Spokane ValleyHub, Doug Smith replied there is nothing binding in terms of any financial responsibility, there is going to be some dialogue and potential commitments in the future. Discussions continued on the costs for citizens, formalizing relationships, increasing availabilities, and improving opportunities for the citizens of Liberty Lake.

After further discussions, Council Member Langford moved to table the MOU Agreement for the Spokane ValleyHub and bring it back to the Council for consideration, seconded by Council Member Crump. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Passed: In Favor: Council Member Olander, Council Member Schuler, Council Member Crump, and Council Member Langford; Opposed: Council Member Owens; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

After clarification on the difference between the bid proposal and final bid costs, Council Member Langford moved to accept Item 4 on the Consent Agenda for the Bid on the Appleway/Molter Traffic Signal, seconded by Council Member Crump. City Attorney Sean Boutz asked that the City Attorney's name be changed in the Rocky Hill Park Contract. Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. Motion Passed. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

Council Member Crump moved the Ratification of 2008 Standing Committees, seconded by Council Member Owens. After discussions, Mayor Van Orman called for the vote. In Favor: Unanimous; Opposed: None; Absent: Council Member Jenkins and Mayor Pro Tem Sayrs

## **ORDINANCE – FIRST READINGS**

*Ordinance No. 167 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Providing for a Form of the Ballot Proposition and Specifying Certain Other Details Concerning Submission to the Qualified Electors of the City at a Special Election to be Held Therein on April 22, 2008, for the Issuance of its General Obligations Bonds in the Aggregate Principle Amount Not to Exceed \$9,800,000, or So Much Thereof as May be Issued Under the Laws Governing the Indebtedness of Cities, for the Purpose of Providing Funds for the Construction of a Library/Community Center.*

*Ordinance No. 168 – An Ordinance of the City of Liberty Lake, Washington, Establishing Criteria for Accepting Donations for Parks, Facilities, and Recreation Programs.*

Cynthia Smith, City Clerk, read Ordinances No. 167 and 168 into the record

## **WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS**

### Library / Community Center

Mike Ormsby, City of Liberty Lake's Bond Council, stated that if the bond issue is successful and we issue the bonds, we will be giving a legal opinion to the City and to the investors who buy the bonds regarding the number of issues associated with the bonds, including the exemption from federal income tax of interest paid on the bond, and the fact that the bonds are a valid, legal, and binding obligation of the taxpayers of the City. The Ordinance in front of the City will control how we proceed from this point forward. Mr. Ormsby asked if Council Members had any changes or would like to discuss before final adoption of the Ordinance on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Van Orman asked about the possibility of early payoff about putting a call feature back on the bond before maturity. Mr. Ormsby replied that 20 years is a fairly standard term for bonds. They are required under

the Constitution to put the maximum term. Mayor Van Orman inquired about the schedule in packet of 20, 25, and 30 year bond examples which allows us to reference in the event the interest rate falls.

Council Member Owens reiterated "it is an uphill battle to pass a bond issue any time we go out albeit a small difference, I do think there is a difference to taxpayers. The City of Liberty Lake has a lot of young families and people on fixed incomes, and believe we need to run this bond with the lowest possible, out-of-pocket cost to the taxpayer as possible. By stretching the bond term out over a 30 year period, we are paying more. However, we are lowering the amount for individual taxpayers per year, and as we build out the City, that bond will be spread over many more taxpayers, lowering the amount even further. If it is promoted right and the people who are promoting have the right information, there may be a more positive outcome in the election." Discussions continued on levying excess property taxes annually to repay such bonds, pre-payment options, options to refinance the bonds, and assessed property values increasing.

Council Member Olander spoke about the turnkey project including the landscaping, and parking lot costs for the Community Center. Doug Smith pointed to the spreadsheet that was in the Council packets. Mr. Smith said until we get into the details of the design for the exterior improvements, we don't know. After further discussions on costs, Doug Smith said it was up to the Council's decision.

#### Review of Walgreens Project

Mayor Van Orman showed a drawing of what the corner of Liberty Lake Road and Appleway would look like (Walgreens Project). Doug Smith encouraged the public to call City Hall to express their concerns before they expressed them publicly. Council Member Langford commented that he agreed with the assessment that there could have been calming of fears with the proper communication. However, he would have liked to seen a proactive part on behalf of the City to reach out to the public on this size of magnitude.

Mayor Van Orman said things are happening in the Administrative Services Department. Cynthia Smith announced she had put the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes on the Website and the last 2 years (2006-2007) will be added later. Ms. Smith has also put (5) five of the Resolutions online to date. Comparison shopping has also been done, saving the City 18% on office supplies.

#### Collaborative Planning Luncheon

Mayor Van Orman reminded Council Members of the Collaborative Planning Luncheon on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 and urged all Council Members to attend.

### **UNFINISHED / NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Crump talked about the Travel Reimbursement Authorization forms and asked if there was a double check. Doug Smith stated the City reimburses on original receipts only and does reimburse when statements are submitted.

Council Member Langford reminded the Council and staff to look into a grant to study the lighting of the City. He also mentioned the lighting over the crosswalk at Country Vista and Mission. Doug Smith said in the next season the City of Liberty Lake will be assessing lighting standard studies and various jurisdictions and what they require for illumination of the City.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mary Ellen Steen, 23024 E Settler, Liberty Lake, talked about input of different citizens reactions to the upcoming Bond Levy. She was trying to get people to talk about it, but has not thrown out the numbers because she hasn't had a lot to work on. She gave an example of an older woman, on fixed means who has used the library for a long time. Ms. Steen had asked if she was interested in getting involved but she had said she wasn't sure would vote for it.

Margaret Barnes, 22915 E Valleyway, Liberty Lake, addressed the senior citizens' assessments on their property taxes. She said the senior citizens of this community get a break on their property taxes; their assessment value is frozen depending on their income. She added that all people, whether they are disabled or are 65 or not, get a property tax break. Ms. Barnes commented that to say all senior citizens could not afford this was misleading. She also addressed that the operating budget for the library includes books. The only other expense would be for the community center.

Valerie Marshall, 927 Oakmont, said (inaudible) if we procrastinate on this bond, we are going to be looking at the same building for much more. So we are asking you to help support the library/community center.


Bill Quirk, 23012 E Dutchman Lane, Liberty Lake, located outside of the City, stated he was in favor of supporting the community center and the library. The Kiwanis Club is very active in this community. He stated the Kiwanis is moving the Father/Daughter Dance to the Mirabeau at Center Place, because there is no facility here in the City that is large enough to accommodate the venue. "The fact that I live outside of the City doesn't mean that I don't participate in it and people outside don't participate or want to support this City. I benefit from the City as do many people who live outside of the City. Please Mayor and Council, respect that and don't challenge the fact that people who want the library and community center bond to pass don't live in the City – that should not be an issue."

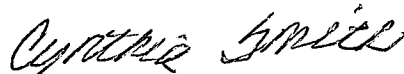
Hima Yerragittla, 1302 Danbarton Oaks Lane, talked about the sanding of roads but would appreciate the City paying attention to the stop signs.

## ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion, meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

These Minutes are approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008.

  
Wendy Van Orman, Mayor  
City of Liberty Lake



*Notes and Transcription by Cindy Smith, City Clerk. This Council Meeting was audio taped. Anyone desiring to listen to the recording may contact the City Clerk/Treasurer.*